THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) laboratory scale results have been achieved in photobological, photoelectro-chemical and electroilysis techniques for production of hydrogen. New hydride materials for storage of hydrogen have been developed and efforts are under way to further improve the storage capacity of such materials. A two wheeler motor - cycle has been test driven upto 25 Kms using the metal hydride storage device at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Tests have also been carried out on hydrogen fulled small horse power engine utility systems at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Research efforts are underway to improve the technologies and their economic viability which are likely to yield results for wide spread use in the long run.

(b) An approximate amount of Rs.2.56 crores have been provided for this programme during 1985-92.

(c) the programme in this area will depend on the allocation for the eighth Five Year Plan which is yet to be finalised.

Telephone Connections in Lakhadweep

7116. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for telephone connection in Lakshadweep; and

(b) the action being taken to expedite the release of telephone connections there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are 406 pending applications as on 31.3.1992.

(b) Out of the waiting applicants given above. about 150 are expected to be provided with telephone connections during the year 1992-93. Additional telephone connections are expected to be released in subsequent years in line with the objective of the draft 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) to provide telephone connections(by the end of plan period) practically on demand is rural and tribal areas.

New TV Relay Centres in U.P. and Madhya Pradesh

7117. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI; Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the place in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh where new TV relay centres have been set up during the last six months alongwith their converge capacity;

(b) the percentage of area in all the five districts of Bundelkhand division of Uttar Pradesh is covered by TV programmes;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in near future to increase their relay capacity; and

(d) the places in Uttar Pradesh where TV relay centres are propose to be set up during 1992-93?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Whereas no TV transmitter has been commissioned in Madhya Pradesh during the last six months, a TV transposer (2x10 W) has been commissioned at Mussoorie in Uttar Pradesh in December, 1991.

(b) About 66.4% area of Bundelkhand division of Uttar Pradesh is at present covered by TV service. This includes frings

service areas where elevated antennae and boosters are required for obtaining satisfactory reception.

(c) The existing low power (100 W) TV transmitter at Banda in Bundelkhand division of Uttar Pradesh is envisaged to be replaced by a high power (1 KW) TV transmitter subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

(d) As per the present indications, a high power (10KW) TV transmitter replacement of the existing low power (100W) transmitter is expected to be commissioned at Bareily in Uttar Pradesh during 1992-93.

[*Translation*]

Implementation of pay Scales in Telecommunication commission

7118. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement had been reached in 1990 to remove the irregularities in pay-scale, promotion, etc. in the Telecommunication Commission and Telecommunication Engineering group (B) and whether any order has also passed by any court in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the orders of the Court and the said agreement had been implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). A copy of agreement signed on 31.5.90 between Member (Services) Telecom. Commission and the General Secretary, Telecom. Engineering Service Association & Junior Telecom, Officers Association is enclosed as statement. There are Court orders regarding item 5 of the said agreement. The scheme for earmarking 30 posts of JAG from promotee officers was quashed by the Court orders.

(c) The agreement as well as the court orders have been implemented.

(d) In view of (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

STATEMENT

Decisions taken on the Joint Cahrter of Demands sbumitted by J.T.O.A. (India) and T.E.S.A,. (India)

1. *Lateral advancement for JTOs:*

The JTOs completing 12 years of service will be given the scale of Rs. 2000 to 3500 on lateral advancement basis with the benefit of fixation under F.R. 22(c). The date of effect will be 1.1.1990 onwards. This will be done through matching saving.

2. *lateral Advancement of TES Group 'B' Officers:*

lateral promotion for TES Group 'B' officers to Group 'A' is not agreed to. However, from now onwards, the TES Group 'B' officers, who will be compelting 12 years of service on year-to-year basis, will be given vertical promotion to JTS. The administration will ensure this by finding by conversion sufficient additional posts of JTS. The clearance of the Ministry of Finance has already been obtained in this regard.

It is also agreed to review the ratio of direct recruits to promotees at JTS level. Promotions against the regular quote of vacancies will be effected thorough regular DPCS involving UPSC and the remaining portion of the promotions will be through *ad*